

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1980

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL CH US

SUBJECT: U.S. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS DELEGATION MEETS

TENG HSIAO-PING

1. VISIT TO PRC BY U.S. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS HAS PROCEEDED QUITE SMOOTHLY SO FAR WITH THE CHINESE PROVIDING A TOP-RANK RECEPTION INCLUDING A MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING. GROUP HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY, THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, THE PHYSICS INSTITUTE, AND LOWER-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. DURING THE ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH TENG HSIAO-PING TODAY, TENG WAS IN FINE FORM AND EXUDED CONFIDENCE AND GOOD HUMOR. HE ENDORSED INCREASED CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND SAID THE CHINESE WOULD CONSIDER LONGER TERM (SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR) EXCHANGES OF SCHOLARS URGED BY THE GROUP. HE RAISED PRESS STORIES THAT SINO-U.S. RELATIONS HAD COOLED AND DISMISSED THEM AS "NOT SO, IN OUR OPINION."

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3. TENG ANSWERED AN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTION WITH A

DISCOURSE ON CHINA'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS AGRICULTURE AS A BASIS FOR INDUSTRY. HE SAID CHINA HAD BASICALLY SOLVED ITS FOOD PROBLEM BUT STILL NEEDED TO WORK HARD TO BUILD ITS RESERVES. CHINA, ACCORDING TO TENG, CURRENTLY HAD OVER 300 KILOGRAMS OF GRAIN PER PERSON (PRESUMABLY PER ANNUM) INSTEAD OF THE 200 KILOGRAMS AVAILABLE 25 YEARS AGO, BUT CHINESE AGRICULTURE IS STILL QUITE BACKWARD DUE TO ITS LOW LEVEL OF MECHANIZATION AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZER (GIVEN AS 300 KILOGRAMS PER HECTARE). TENG RELATED THIS TO THE WORLD POPULATION

DEBATE, RESTATING CHINA'S VIEW THAT ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT BELIEVE IN UNPLANNED POPULATION GROWTH, IT FELT THE FUNDAMENTAL WORLD PROBLEM WAS FAILURE TO PAY ATTENTION TO AGRICULTURE, NOT POPULATION PER SE. IN INDUSTRY, TENG DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON STEEL PRODUCTION, CONTRASTING CHINA'S LITTLE MORE THAN TWENTY MILLION TONS WITH THAT OF THE U.S.

4. TENG DISCUSSED THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AT SOME LENGTH, RESTATING THE CHINESE POSITION THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM, AND THE FAILURE OF COUNTRIES TO EMPHASIZE AGRICULTURE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT, A SUBJECT HE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL. HE FELT THAT ALL COUNTRIES, EXCEPT FOR 5 OR 6 OF THE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA MOST SEVERELY RAVAGED BY DROUGHT, COULD BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN AGRICULTURE IN TEN YEARS IF THEY WOULD ONLY SERIOUSLY PAY ATTENTION TO AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS. HE DERIDED INDIA FOR HAVING BETTER NATURAL CONDITIONS THAN CHINA BUT HAVING TO IMPORT LARGE AMOUNTS OF GRAIN AND ADDED THAT SOME OF THEIR FRIENDS IN AFRICA HAD RICH RESOURCES BUT NO KNOWLEDGE OF EVEN BASIC TECHNIQUES OR PRIMITIVE MACHINERY.

5. OIL. HE BLAMED THE RISE IN OIL PRICES ON U.S. AND SOVIET POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HAD FORCED THE ARABS TO RELY ON THE "OIL WEAPON" IN THEIR CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL. HE ARGUED THAT IT WAS NOT FAIR TO PUT ALL THE BLAME FOR INFLATION IN THE WORLD ON THE OIL PRICE RISES BUT CONCEDED THAT OIL HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FACTORS.

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6. US-USSR. TENG NOTED THAT SOME AMERICAN GUESTS HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT CHINA'S TREATMENT OF THE US IN ITS PRESS. HE SAID THAT IF THE SPEECHES WERE CAREFULLY STUDIED ONE NOTICED THAT THE STRESS WAS ON THE USSR WHICH IS THE MAIN CONTRIBUTOR TO INTRANQUILITY IN THE WORLD. SAYING CHINA "CANNOT BUT" CRITICIZE THE UNITED STATES, TENG LIKENED THE U.S. TO A FAT MAN THAT DID NOT MOVE NIMBLY AND SAID WE WERE GENERALLY ON THE DEFENSIVE. THE USSR WAS DESCRIBED AS

ALSO FAT, BUT LIGHTER, MORE NIMBLE AND MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ITS INTENTIONS. HE WARNED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO PEEL OFF LAYERS OF OUR FAT AND SAID THE US MUST REMAIN STRONG AND ALERT BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WILL TRY TO INSERT THEMSELVES IN ANY CRACK THEY CAN FIND.

7. ARMS CONTROL. TO A PROTEST BY A MEMBER OF THE GROUP THWHO HE WAS CALLING FOR AN INTERMINABLE ARMS RACE, TENG ASKED RHETORICALLY IF DETENTE HAD A CHANCE TO SUCCEED. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A DISCOURSE ON THE DIFFICULTY OF DEVELOPING A "BALANCE" IN ARMS CONTROL. ANALYZING THE QUESTION OF A BALANCE UPWARD OR A BALANCE DOWNWARD WHICH HE HAD READ ABOUT IN ARTICLES IN THE US PRESS, TENG SAID THAT THE LATTER SEEMED IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE THE TWO SIDES WOULD HAVE TO DESTROY WEAPONS AND THE FORMER SEEMED DOOMED TO DISPUTES OVER THE RELATIVE BALANCE BETWEEN QUANTITY AND QUALITY.

8. NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ARGUING THAT CHINA WAS NOT A SUPERPOWER, TENG SAID IT WAS TRUE THAT CHINA HAD "A FEW ATOM BOMBS, BUT WHAT ROLE CAN THEY PLAY?" HE SAID THAT IF THE PRC WAS GOING TO COMPETE WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN TERMS OF ATOMIC BOMBS, THE CHINESE PEOPLE WOULD ALL "GO TO MEET GOD" BECAUSE CHINA WOULD HAVE TO PUT ALL OF ITS EFFORTS INTO DEVELOPING BOMBS AND WOULD HAVE NOTHING LEFT FOR FOOD AND CLOTHING.

9. COMMENT: TENG'S COMMENTS FOLLOW VERY CLOSELY HIS STATEMENTS TO OTHER RECENT VISITORS, AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF THE "FAT" U.S. VERSUS THE "NIMBLE" USSR IS ALMOST VERBATIM WHAT HE TOLD DANISH PM HARTLING. WE FIND INTERESTING, HOWEVER, HIS REMARKS ON CHINA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM SINCE IT SQUARES WITH TENG'S RECENT EXPOSITION TO A WEST GERMAN DELEGATION ON THE IMPORTANCE

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OF CONVENTIONAL WARFARE.
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